Retro #11: 1939 by the numbers at SSC

In 1939, more than 30 Brothers and two lay teachers served at St. Stanislaus led Brother Peter Basso, president, and Brother Alexis Klee, principal. That year SSC enrolled 294 students: 175 resident students and 119 day students. Tuition for boarders in 1939 was $450 a year while tuition for day scholars was $45 to $81, depending courses followed. In addition, there were 61 students at the Back School taught by two Brothers.

In the summer of 1939, a group of 123 Brothers gathered for a photo on the front lawn of St. Stanislaus at the close of their communal spiritual retreat. At that time, the United States Province of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart numbered more than 235 Brothers, including 18 novices at the Brothers' House of Formation in Metuchen, NJ, where another large group of Brothers made their annual eight-day retreat. For over a century, Brothers of the Sacred Heart gathered in Bay St. Louis for their annual summer retreat in the since St. Stanislaus College could accommodate large numbers in its dormitory, chapel, and dining hall.

Group photo of 123 Brothers on the front lawn of St. Stanislaus at their 1939 annual retreat at the Bay:

Front Row, left to right: Brothers Earl, Roy, Alberic, Reginald, Boris, Gabriel, Alton, Leo, Michael, Nicholas, Jules, Stanislaus, John, Bertrand, Cyprian, Philip, Lucian, Dacian, Xavier, Camille, and Ivan

Second Row, left to right: Brothers Oswald, Florimond, Adelard, Humbert, Florian, Ignatius, Ferrer, Macarius, Lambert, Albertinus, Martinian, Theodorus, Peter, Anthony, Julius, Bonaventure, Ilbertus, Gerald, Fabian, and William

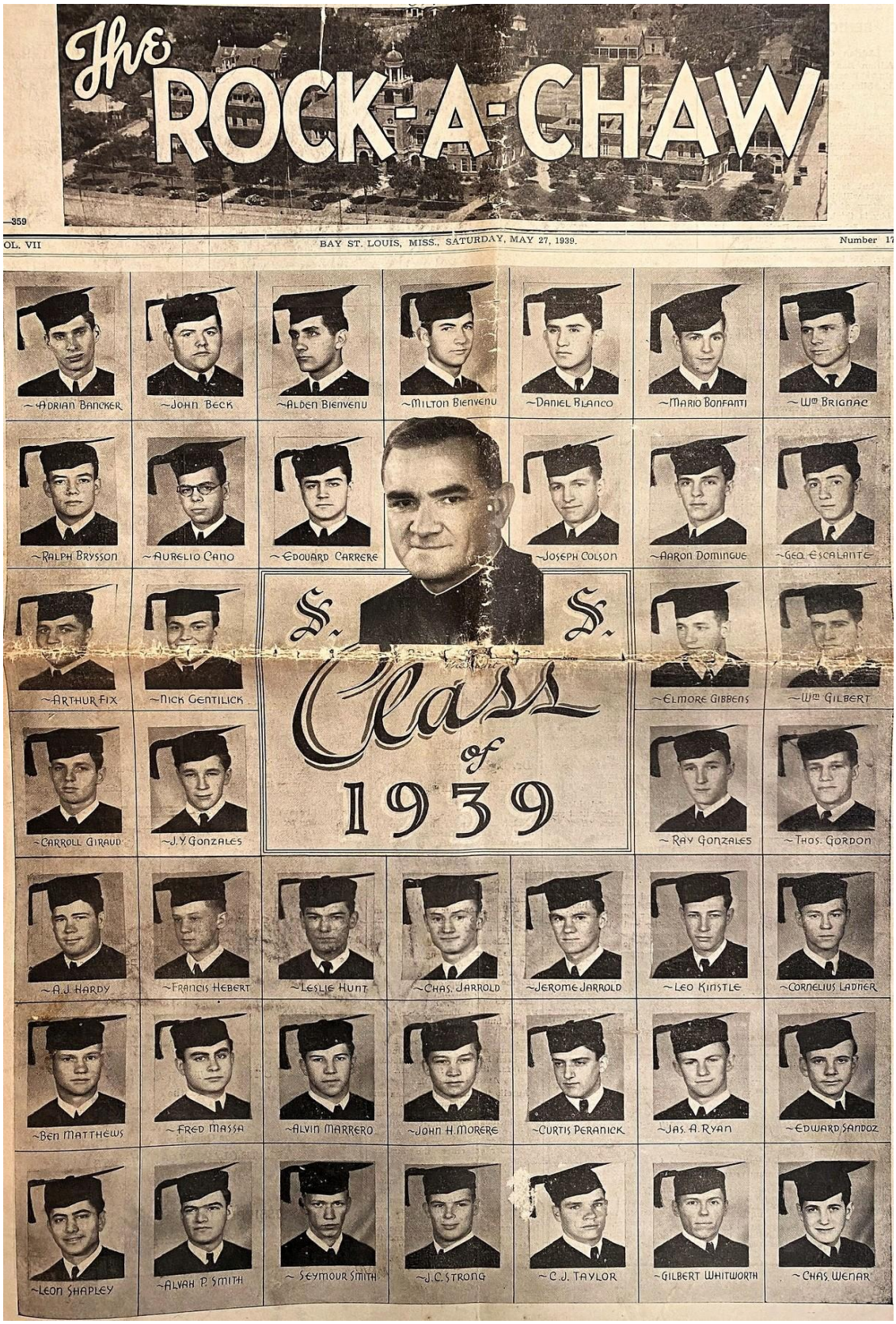
Third Row, left to right: Brothers Gonzaga, Albert, Walter, Oswin, Conrad, Jerome, Carol, Aloysius, Alvin, Dominic, Athanasius, Lawrence, Charles, Basil, Hugh, Aubert, Alfred, Roger, Gordian, Timothy, Firmin, Augustine, Frederick, Benet, Florent, Thomas, Robert, Ephrem, Adrian, Adalbert, Maximin, Claver, Anselm, Linus, Bernardine, Claude, Carl, Quintin, David, Ralph, Oliver, Arnold, Clovis, Lloyd, Omer, Alexis, Gerard, and Cosmas

Back Row, left to right: Brothers Ernest, Patrick, Celsus, Roland, Aquinas, Allen, Clement, Roderic, Alcuin, Romuald, Raymond, Leonard, Julian, Remigius, Marcellus, Alphonse, Bernon, Andre, Berchmans, Felician, Marion, Marius, Kenneth, Giles, Donald, Mark, Matthew, Milton, Marvin, Denis, Canisius, Benedict, Gregory, and Bertin

The March 7, 1974, issue of *The Sea Coast Echo* published a Reflections section which featured one of the two classes of students in the Back School in 1939.

THE CLASS OF '39 at St. Stanislaus Back School found a spot in the sun for this class picture, dated Feb. 2. With Brother Vergin in attendance, some of the students are Horace Geoffrey, Eddie Prevou, Clarence Carrio, Guy Drew, Herman Taconi, Eugene Bermond, Leroy Choina, Andrew Givens, Henry Prevou, Dupre Lapoint, Harold Bermond, Carl Praetorius, Santo Saucier, William Slader, Frank Quintini, Bobby Fayard, Perre Quintini, E. J. Marengo, James Fayard, Jack Arnold, Ronald Carver, Richard Venau, Tom Laberie. Mrs. Rene Bermond, who submitted the photo, says she can't remember all the names. (Readers are urged to submit photos for use in Reflections. All photos will be returned unharmed at the Echo office.)

The 52 seniors of the St. Stanislaus class of 1939 appear in the composite picture with Brother Peter which was published in the May 27, 1939 issue of *The Rock-A-Chaw* .



Brother Xavier Werneth, April 2025